



Te Ope Whakāora

your support in action

Reporter

2012 ISSUE 2



Hard times bring tough choices

Escaping a destructive and terrifying existence takes courage. To move from poverty to creating a new and independent life takes great tenacity. With help from The Salvation Army, Keri is now well on the way to building a new future for her children and herself.

A couple of brutal beatings at the hands of gang members was the final straw for Keri. Her decision to leave town and her partner to escape gang life and its methamphetamine-fuelled culture, and to provide a future for her young children, eventually led her to the doors of The Salvation Army.

After leaving her provincial home town, Keri moved into a house in Auckland with her mother and her mother's partner. The living arrangements didn't work out and Keri found herself alone with her children, spending most of her income on rent.

She had also racked-up a large amount of debt, much of it a result of being

guarantor for loans that were defaulted on. 'I was able to pay my rent and power and then there was nothing left,' Keri says.

With no support and little adult company, she suffered from loneliness and depression.

'Life wasn't easy and there is a stigma of being a single mother,' she says. 'But I was going to make sure my children were going to have good lives.'

Keri first made contact with The Salvation Army last year, dropping into the local centre when she was out walking and wondering how to solve her problems.

The Salvation Army officer provided a listening ear and some reassurance and then organised regular food parcels to ensure the family had adequate food in the short to mid-term.

Thanks to some intensive budget counselling and The Salvation Army advocating on her behalf in negotiations with creditors, in less than a year Keri has her debt at a manageable level and her financial situation is gradually improving.

Since her early contacts with The Salvation Army, she has been welcomed

into the Army community. She is part of the local church, is a regular volunteer with the Community Ministries welfare team, and her eight-year-old son is a member of the Kids' Club.

Keri says her recent success and having supportive people around her has helped raise her self-esteem and added security to her and her children's lives.

This year she will start extra-mural polytechnic studies as the first step in gaining a social work degree.

Jenny, a Salvation Army officer who has had regular contact with Keri since she first sought help, says her transformation has been astounding but not entirely surprising.

'Even before she came to us, she was a brilliant and resourceful mother and fiercely determined to create a better life for her children,' Jenny says. 'All she needed was a little support.'

For more on how The Salvation Army helps people through tough times and offers them some of the choices that many of us take for granted visit www.redshieldappeal.co.nz

Inside:

Fine dining for quake-affected families

A song for Christchurch

Red Shield Appeal update

A safe start for young children

Mackenzie Country fine dining

A High Country station brought high cuisine to the Mackenzie Basin, raising \$17,000 for quake-affected Christchurch families.

A fundraising event, unique to the High Country, took place at Mt Gerald Station at Lake Tekapo on 10 March following months of planning by Sarah and Michael Burtscher. Chefs Simon Gault, Eugene Hamilton, and Hayden Smith took time out from their busy schedules to provide an entertaining cooking class and five-course lunch in a finely laid out marquee. Sarah says the response

was overwhelming when she posted the event on Facebook. 'All the tickets sold quickly to people throughout the country,' she says.

With the generous support from Simon Gault and his team as well as from a wide array of Canterbury businesses plus free kitchen and waiting help from Tekapo families, the event raised \$17,000 for The Salvation Army's Canterbury Earthquake Appeal.

Thank you to the Burtschers and everyone else involved for their generous support: Mandy's Horseradish, Canterbury Cheesemongers, Aoraki Smoke House Salmon, Condimentum,

Bellbird Spring, Clove Encounter, Braided River Vineyard, Rock Ferry Wines, ARA Wines, Wooing Tree, Kitchen Capers, Oh Lar-Lar, Plane Tree Antiques, Archibald's Motors, HireQuip, Chefs Kitchen and Peppers Blue Water Resort Lake Tekapo.

Money raised from the event will be used for mid to long-term programmes aimed at supporting Christchurch communities affected by the quakes with social and practical assistance.

The latest Salvation Army initiative is the provision of employment training for local unemployed people to enable them to get work in the reconstruction of the city.

Fine dining amongst the tussock of the High Country



Photosynthesize for Christchurch

The band that won the 2012 Christchurch Festival of Flowers song writing competition is giving the proceeds of sales of their song to The Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal

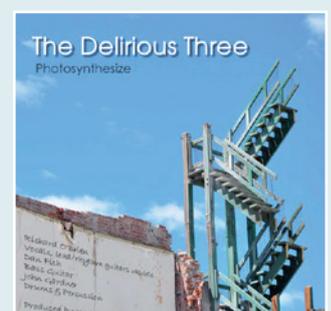
The Delirious Three's song, *Photosynthesize*, captures the

sentiments of the many people who have battled through the Canterbury earthquakes and their aftermath in the past 18 months, says band member and the song's writer Richard O'Brien.

The bands says the entry was a last minute effort, written

in a weekend, recorded in a neighbour's hallway and submitted just days before the competition's closing date.

Purchase your copy of *Photosynthesize* at www.thedeliriousthree.bandcamp.com





BREAK THE CYCLE OF SOCIAL NEED **OR** LEAVE IT UNCHANGED?

New Zealand's social and economic future can be changed for the better if we invest in individuals, families and communities. Together we can make a significant difference.

Preparing for a tough year ahead

The Salvation Army went into its annual Red Shield Appeal this year running at full capacity and, despite generous donations of food from New Zealand companies, with diminishing resources. The appeal is the main source of funding for the Army's welfare work.

Salvation Army welfare services are continuing to deal with the rising human costs of the recession, the Christchurch earthquakes and increasing client referrals from Government agencies.

Salvation Army Secretary for Social Services Major Pam Waugh says the support of New Zealanders has always been an essential ingredient of the Army's social services and this backing will be crucial throughout 2012.

'We see the New Zealand public as being an equal partner in the work we do in our most deprived neighbourhoods,' she says. 'This year will be the most critical Salvation Army fundraising year in decades if we are to maintain current levels of service.'

While demand for services appears to have plateaued since the recession, Salvation Army welfare services, such as food banks and budget counselling, are currently up 70 per cent and 189 per cent respectively since the start of the recession in 2008. Social workers, who are key to helping solve the myriad

of financial and social problems most clients face, have seen their workloads increase 94 per cent in the same period.

The Salvation Army in the South Island has seen even greater pressure on its services.

Even excluding earthquake-related work, The Salvation Army's Southern Division has seen a 108 per cent increase in food parcel distribution since the start of the recession in early 2008. Social workers have seen their case loads jump by more than 270 per cent in the same period.

Head of social services in the South Island Major Mike Allwright says prior to the quakes, a rising number of families were seeking assistance with increasingly complex problems relating to job losses, reduced work hours and the resulting debt. 'Following the earthquakes, demand has soared, including a growing number of middle income-earners affected by the quakes,' he says.

At the same time, traditional sources of funding for welfare services are diminishing. Individual welfare centres applying for community trust grants have seen the amounts available decline in recent years. The government's Community Response Fund – established to assist NGOs cope with the rising tide of demand during and after the recession and increased referrals for budgeting from WINZ and Housing New Zealand—is insufficient and about to be disestablished.

Welfare policy changes later this

year, and current changes at Housing New Zealand, are expected to accelerate the stream of clients seeking budgeting, social work services and emergency housing.

“

Thank you to everyone who made the choice to help our Red Shield Appeal this year. Your contribution will make an incredible difference in the lives of everyday New Zealanders.

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Red Shield Appeal
**MAKE A
CHOICE
TO HELP**
Donate now
Text CHOICE to 2454 to make a \$3 donation.

Our Red Shield Appeal text number is open for donations until 14 July 2012. Text **CHOICE** to 2454 now to make a \$3 donation.

Helping young children heal from family violence

Safe from the Start is an award-winning Salvation Army initiative to help families create a brighter future

Tracy is typical of many women who walk into The Salvation Army's Community Ministries Centres every day. She had moved into a new flat and came in to get help with furniture. But Tracy revealed that her partner regularly beat her, stole from her, and had wrecked her new flat.

Pregnant with her second child, Tracy's two-year-old son had started to learn from his father's actions that he could get his own way by using violence on his mother. Salvation Army Secretary for Social Services Major Pam Waugh describes the little boy she met as 'hyper-active and hyper-vigilant'. She says he could never settle at any pre-school because he was too disruptive.

Over a six-month period, the Community Ministries team worked to keep Tracy safe and helped her move house. They helped her learn attachment-based parenting, and began therapy with her son to deal with his anxieties and violent behaviours.

One in four children who witness domestic violence develop serious social and behavioural problems. Australian research showed that exposure to violence at an early age can affect a child's cognitive development. Their exposure to violence also increases their own risk of future violent behaviour, drug and alcohol addiction, and mental health issues.

This research prompted The Salvation Army Australian Southern Territory to develop a programme to



Major Pam Waugh with the new Safe from the Start play therapy kit

work with pre-school children exposed to family violence. Called 'Safe from the Start', it won a Tasmanian Child Protection Award for its innovative approach to working with both children and their parents.

In June, Safe from the Start will be launched in New Zealand, breaking new ground in the way The Salvation Army works therapeutically with families exposed to domestic violence. 'The significance of this programme is that it works with the parent and child together,' Pam says. 'So we're not only working to help the child find a voice, we're helping the parent build a secure attachment with their child.'

Safe from the Start is a play therapy programme, developed by trialling over 40 therapeutic toys and intervention activities in women's refuges and parenting groups. The play therapy kit, adapted especially for New Zealand, uses books, toys, puppets and music to help the child talk about their feelings and unravel some of the difficulties they may be experiencing.

The parent is with their child as they play, learning about the child's experiences and emotions. With the help of the social worker, the parent also learns how to use the toys with their child to build attachment and further develop parenting skills.

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To find out more, visit salvationarmy.org.nz



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